

Coins

For collectors' shelves, a roundup of reading

By Roger Boye

HERE IS A roundup of some coin books published recently:

● "A Guide Book of United States Coins," by R. S. Yeoman [30th edition, 1977]; Western Publishing Co., Inc., Racine, Wis. 53409; 256 pages; \$3.95.

This is the "Red Book," the coin collector's bible, which is sold widely. The 1977 edition includes updated retail prices for all U. S. coins [values listed are averaged from data supplied by contributors], and some new material about particular coins [such as the Bicentennial coinage]. As in the past editions, the book is convenient to use and is chock-full of information about the U. S. coinage system.

● "Standard Guide to U. S. Coin and Paper

Money Valuations," by Robert Wilhite and Clifford Mishler; Krause Publications, Iola, Wis. 54945; 194 pages; \$1.50.

This is a paperback book with a cluttered-looking cover. It is sold primarily on book stands for the novice or occasional collector. Included are retail prices for U. S. coins and paper money, and a column listing the price individuals can expect to receive from a dealer for a coin. Relatively little information about the history of U. S. coinage is in this book.

● "Silver Dollar Encyclopedia," by James B. Osbon; Headquarters Publishing Co., Box 4886, Richmond, Va. 23229; 271 pages; \$15.

Osbon attempts to rank the "investment potential" of every U. S. dollar made from 1794 to 1935 and devotes one page, by year and mint, to each dollar. He says predictions were made

after analyzing much data, including past retail price fluctuations.

For example, he ranks the uncirculated 1923-S silver dollar as the best investment in the Peace dollar series. ["Every Peace dollar investor should own one"] and the 1926-P as the worst investment in the series ["Consider this issue as a very risky, very poor investment"]. Time will tell.

● "Standing Liberty Quarters," by Keith N. Kelman; International Numismatica Corp., Box 1414, Nashua, N. H. 03060; 98 pages; \$6.95.

U. S. quarters made from 1916 to 1930 are regarded as one of America's most beautiful coins and one of the most difficult to grade. Kelman analyzes each coin in the series based on auction records, mintages, and availability; and he discusses "investment potential."